ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
Is it spring yet?
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OPINION
Laws of kashrut
The trials and challenges of keeping kosher on the Hill **page 6**

FEATURES
Gay, 25 years ago
The Spec delves into its archives for a look at sexuality on campus **page 10**

The Spectator

Thursday,
April 14, 2016
Volume LVI
Number 22

PHOTO BY BENJAMIN MITTMAN '18
Neil deGrasse Tyson presented a lecture entitled "Adventures in Science Literacy" on April 12.

Tyson talks science literacy in Great Names speech

by Deasia Hawkins '18
Staff Writer

Hamilton College was honored to host Neil deGrasse Tyson, American astrophysicist, cosmologist, author and science communicator, as it celebrated its 20th anniversary of the Sacerdote Great Names Lecture Series.

The Field House was near capacity when the lights dimmed and President Joan Hinde Stewart introduced Tyson as the first ever scientist to be a guest in the series. From the start of Tyson's lecture, one could tell that he was not only accessible, but that he tried very hard to make science accessible by weaving in humorous anecdotes and interacting with the audience.

While Tyson's lecture was titled "Adventures in Science Literacy," he delved into the mass devaluation and misunderstanding of science and mathematics that represents a global atmosphere of science illiteracy. The devaluation of such fields is not spread across the entire globe and Tyson chose to examine the value some countries place on these fields by displaying international currencies.

Germany, for example, is renowned for its engineering. They display Werner von Braun on their currency as well as a complicated-looking distribution equation curve. This doesn't necessarily signify widespread knowledge of the distribution curve, but Tyson hypothesized that German citizens "know that it's math and that it's important because it's on the currency." The inclusion of math on German currency allows citizens to both become familiar with it and become curious about it.

Interestingly, American currency does in fact include a scientist on the 100 dollar bill: Benjamin Franklin. Yet the one hundred-dollar bill does not hint at Frankllin's mathematic or scientific achievement
. There are no kites or lightning. That is because Franklin is more remembered for being a Founding Father than for any of his scientific discoveries and inventions.

Across the globe, mathematics has been socially devalued and critical thinking has yet to be resurrected. Tyson illustrated this point by displaying the recipients of the Nobel Prize, showing that about 25 percent are Jewish and .46 percent are Muslim. Tyson is haunted by this fact and states, "I lay awake at night lamenting the fact that in this world we have 1.5 billion people who are not participating in the frontier of discovery but who used to."

**"You have to have objective realities. You have to be objective when you have influence over others. Otherwise we won't have an informed democracy."
— Neil deGrasse Tyson**

Tyson also talked about a concept called "Bad Science," and how the American media is without a doubt scientifically illiterate. He recounted an instance where an online article gives instructions on how to get to the moon, as if it's not a gigantic object in the sky.

*see **Tyson**, page 3*

Hamilton's response to sexual assault cases continues to be investigated

by Emily Eisler '17
Staff Writer

On Wednesday afternoon, officials from the United States Department of Education, New York Office for Civil Rights (OCR) visited Hamilton College's campus to speak to students about the College's policies and practices when dealing with sexual harassment, sexual assault and other forms of sexual violence.

The purpose of their investigation was to provide the Hamilton administration with unfiltered student feedback on how the school handles this issue. The meeting was facilitated by two officials from the Office for Civil Rights and was only open to students.

The forum began with a quick explanation by the officials of what the Office for Civil Rights entails, since some in attendance were unfamiliar with the department. Their function is to investigate discrimination against anybody based on race, nationality, ability status, gender, class, sexuality, age or other identity category.

Though their visit here was not to investigate whether or not Hamilton was complying with the standards set by their office for handling sexual assault, they did collect information to pass on to the Hamilton administration to give them a better sense of the campus climate surrounding these issues.

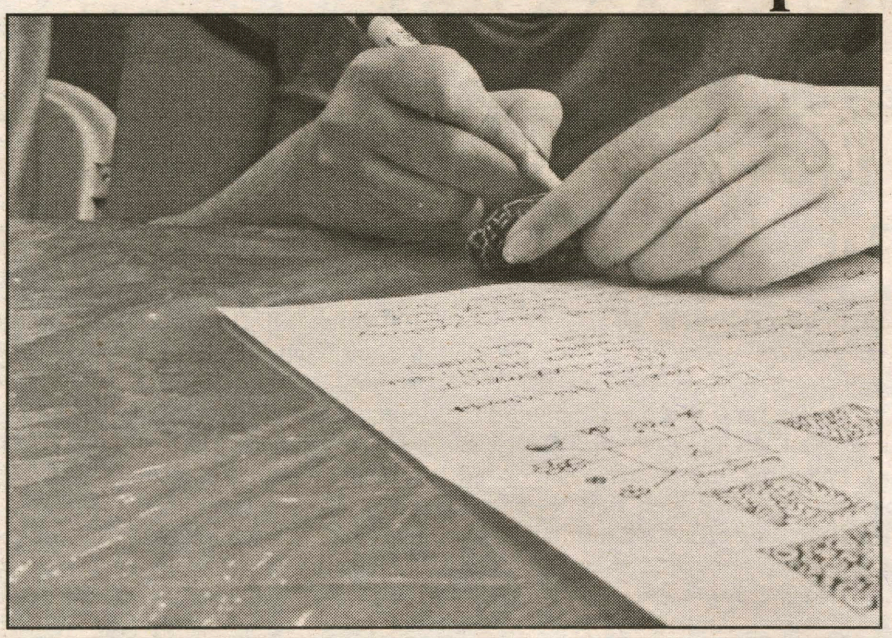
They did this by asking the students in attendance general questions about how prevalent of an issue sexual assault is on campus, what factors seemed to increase the likelihood of assault or harassment, how well the students felt cases they had been exposed to had been handled and what the school could improve on. This meeting happened to take place during the SAVES Sexual Assault Awareness Month and representatives from SAVES were in attendance to give a more objective knowledgeable voice to the conversation as well.

Unfortunately, attendance to the forum was fairly low and all of the students in attendance were women who expressed an existing interest in the issue, whether it be membership in SAVES or studying Women's and Gender Studies. While their existing knowledge was certainly helpful to the visiting officials, there was speculation that a more diverse perspective would probably have brought new issues and ideas to light that the administration has not heard before.

Women's lacrosse team boasts successful 8-3 record, 4-3 NESCAC record

PHOTO BY ZACH BATSON '16
The Women's Lacrosse team beat Williams by a margin of 14-4 on April 12. Read more on page 16.

Mindfulness Retreat seeks to improve mental health and self-care on campus



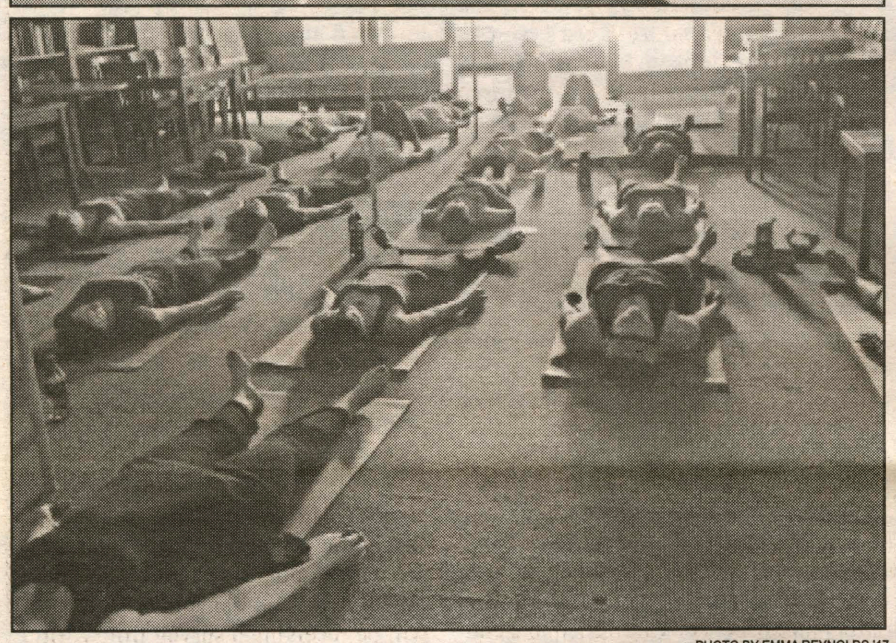


PHOTO BY EMMA REYNOLDS '17

by Emma Reynolds '17
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

On Saturday, the First Annual On-Campus Mindfulness Retreat took place, moving from the third floor of the Chapel to the gym to the Wellin Museum, attending activities such as Kripalu yoga, Zen Doodling and guided meditations as part of a workshop on finding meaning in one's life.

The idea for the retreat was developed a month earlier by Chaplain Jeff McArn and the Chaplaincy Meditation Intern. This innovation has permeated several other areas of campus that deal with mental health.

The Counseling Center has recently added two members to its staff—Heather Cosgrove, Ph.D, and Lily McArn, therapy dog.

"Awareness on Hamilton's campus is increasing, but is the stigma decreasing? Where are all the male meditators, the male yogis?...Is there a way for the community extend an invitation for stress relief and better mental health? —Questions posed at On-Campus Mindfulness Retreat

Heather was added after an increased use in the counseling services put additional strain on the counseling staff. In the fall, the Counseling Center will introduce two new faces to the Hamilton community, in response to an increased use in counseling services. Much of this Counseling Center traffic will also be offered another option in the fall: peer counseling.

The program—whose members are called "PCs"—is listed as a drop-down on the Counseling Center's Hamilton webpage, and will consist of trained Hamilton students mentoring and helping other students. PCs will "serve as a resource to other students on a wide variety of health issues."

Group counseling has also emerged from the Counseling Center; over the last two years, it has grown from two groups to six, now including several themed groups, such as "Students of Color Support Group" and "In, Out & In Between."

Hamilton's on-campus resources for mental health stretch from dark side to light side, with access to a dietician and a nutritionist. Yet with a small pool of staff within these areas, they are almost always booked four to six weeks out (though hopefully this will change as the Counseling Center acquires new staff members in the upcoming semester).

Luckily for yoga classes, you don't need to schedule an appointment. Susie Hamilton's Tuesday/ Thursday 4:30p.m. Kripalu yoga class is always full to the brim, but no students are ever asked to wait outside—mats are merely moved over to find more space. Hamilton's classes are often heavily female, with a few male students often congregating

*see **Mindfulness**, page 3*

AMHERST BATES BOWDOIN COLBY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

NESCAC NEWS

by Dillon Kelly '18
NEWS EDITOR

Talk on tension in Korean Peninsula takes place at Middlebury Institute

Diplomats from both the United States and Russia met at the Middlebury Institute on April 8 and 9 for a workshop centered on tensions in the Korean Peninsula. The workshop, entitled "Security and Nuclear Challenges on the Korean Peninsula," was hosted by the Institute's James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) and was led by CNS director William Potter. Potter stated, "I believe this dialogue contributed to a better understanding of the nuclear and security challenges on the Korean Peninsula."

Bowdoin College awards student grant to travel and study homes

Bowdoin student Tess Hamilton received a fellowship of $30,000 from the Thomas J. Watson Foundation to explore parts of Europe and Africa to investigate how families structure their homes. Hamilton grew up on a cooperative in New Hampshire, where she lived with six adults and three children. She plans to study and observe how people structure their homes in different environments.

Congressman John Lewis to deliver commencement at Bates College

Congressman John Lewis of Georgia will deliver the Bates College Commencement address and receive an honorary degree on Sunday, May 29. Lewis is regarded as one of the most courageous people of the civil rights movement. Accompanying Lewis will be Lisa Genova, a neuroscientist and author of popular novel *Still Alice*, Daniel Gilbert, renowned psychologist and Robert Witt, higher education leader. According to the Bates' website, the college is "proudly honored to be joined for this historic Commencement by these distinguished leader."

MIDDLEBURY TRINITY TUFTS WESLEYAN WILLIAMS

Neil deGrasse Tyson delivers "Adventures in Science Literacy" lecture

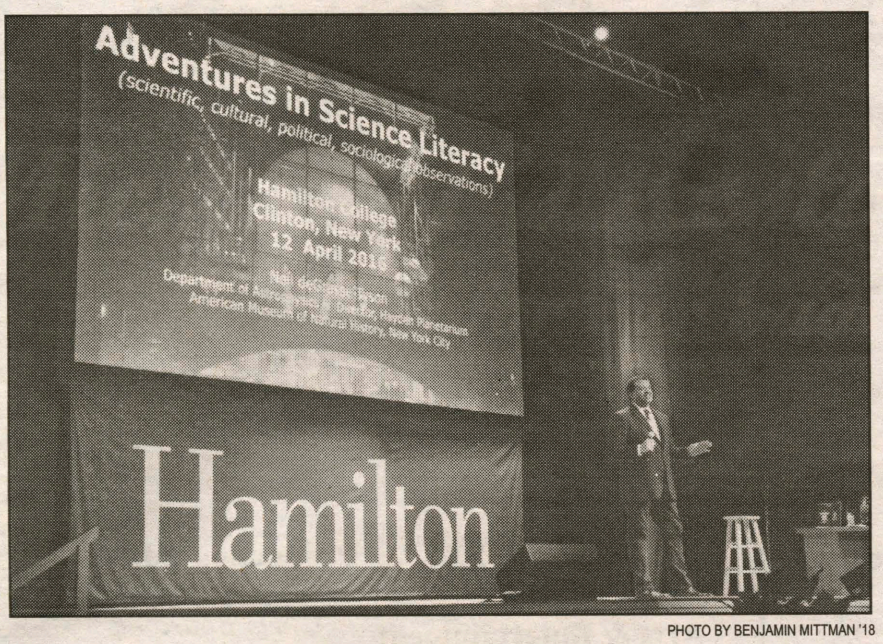


PHOTO BY BENJAMIN MITTMAN '18

Tyson addressed the packed Field House for the Great Names as he lectured on the importance of science literacy.

from ***Great Names****, page 1*

He pointed out another instance of "bad science" in a *USA Today* article implying that red moons signaled the end of the world but show a picture of a setting sun. "You have to have objective realities," stated Tyson. "You have to be objective when you have influence over others. Otherwise we won't have an informed democracy."

> **"You don't have to be a scientist to be science literate"**
> **— Neil deGrasse Tyson**

Disasters such as oil spills and collapsing bridges frustrate Tyson. He claimed that such events are the result of faulty engineering and scientific illiteracy. As humans, we are too proud to admit when we make mistakes. "We have the intellectual capacity to grow up," claimed Tyson, emphasizing that we are responsible for what happens to our world.

Tyson's lecture wasn't about trying to transform the audience into science lovers. "You don't have to be a scientist to be science literate," he told the audience.

It is important to understand that truly knowing our planet and the impact we make is necessary to preserving it, Tyson emphasized. During the Environmental Movement, NASA made citizens see the earth from a different perspective. "We went to the moon and discovered earth for the first time," recapped Tyson. He said humans now need to rediscover earth again. In order to do so, people must appreciate science and math; people must become scientifically literate.

Minfulness Retreat aims to meet demand for mental health care

from ***Mindfulness Retreat****, page 2*

in the same corner.

Saturday's mindfulness retreat exhibited a similar distribution of gender, but to an extreme extent: every single person involved identified as a female.

The five different workshops were led by five females, all from different areas on- and off-campus, and the 17 participants (all students, except for one staff member) were all women ages 17 to 23. Yet both the Mindfulness Retreat's call for workshops and for registration were sent as all-campus emails.

Some of the questions posed at the retreat include: Awareness on Hamilton's campus is increasing, but is the stigma decreasing? Where are all the male meditators, the male yogis? Do they feel stigmatized? And furthermore, why wasn't anyone talking about the Mindfulness Retreat on Monday? Is there a way for the community extend an invitation for stress relief and better mental health?

Beyond the question of gender, this becomes a question of mental health on campus. The services provided by Hamilton are certainly in use—most counselors at the center can no longer see students once a week (as was the norm two years ago), and wellness classes are avidly attended.

There is no doubt that the campus has begun a conversation about mental health. In the fall of 2015, students participated in the Healthy Minds Study. There is a Meditation Club that meets every week, and the Chapel brings members from the Syracuse Zen Center to lead meditations several times each semester. The campus also has Minds for Change, a student-run organization "dedicated to changing the conversation about mental health by increasing awareness and decreasing stigma associated with mental illness." Counseling groups, student organizations and retreats all aim to meet campus demand for accessible, effective mental health services.

Student Assembly update

by Kirsty Warren '18
and Dillon Kelly '18
News Editors

At the April 11 Student Assembly meeting, Student Assembly representatives and other members of the campus community discussed the lack of resources for students wishing to keep kosher, a proposal that lab courses count as a half or quarter credit, and the new point system,

Caroline Kriedberg '17 and Paula Weiman '18 expressed concerns that there is not a kosher kitchen, or even kosher pots, pans and utensils available on campus. This concern was exacerbated when that other campus organizations used utensils in the Azel Backus house for non-kosher cooking. Kriedberg and Weiman requested that SA help spread information and raise awareness about this matter.

Katie Guzzetta '18 and Marta Antoniv '17 discussed the fact that science students receive no credit for their courses' lab components. They proposed labs counting for quarter or half credits. "When you have the equivalent of half a class added on, it shouldn't be a zero credit," Antoniv said, according to the Student Assembly minutes.

Director of Outdoor Leadership Andrew Jillings spoke at the meeting about changes to the point system. Jillings is a co-chair of the Points Committee formed by Dean of Students Nancy Thompson. The goal of this committee is not to radically alter the preexisting points system but to find things that need changing. Students will be receiving a survey from their RA so they can make their opinions known. Based on the survey results, Jillings will report back to Thompson with certain recommendations.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors, *The Spectator* will publish a selection of the previous weekend's incidents each Thursday. The entire report is available in the online edition of *The Spectator*. Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* will use their discretion regarding what is published.

Thursday, April 7, 2016

1:34 P.M. Medical Emergency – Kirner Johnson Exterior
5:30 P.M. Fire – Commons Dining Hall
10:12 P.M. Noise Complaint – Milbank Hall

Friday, April 8, 2016

4:16 A.M. Suspicious Activity – New Lot
11:18 A.M. Larceny – Kirner Johnson
4:12 P.M. Marijuana Complaint – Milbank Hall
8:38 P.M. Falsification of a Document – Commons Dining Hall
10:19 P.M. Noise Complaint – North Hall
11:52 P.M. Area Check – Chapel
11:52 P.M. Noise Complaint – Root Residence Hall

Saturday, April 9, 2016

12:28 A.M. Noise Complaint – Kirkland Hall
12:34 A.M. Noise Complaints – Milbank Hall
1:17 A.M. Failure to Comply/ Underage Possession of Alcohol – Bundy West
1:21 A.M. Noise Complaint – Babbitt Hall
3:09 A.M. Domestic Dispute/Assault – Carnegie Hall
2:44 P.M. Medical Emergency – Campus Safety Office
3:53 P.M. Property Damage – Ferguson Lot
3:54 P.M. Criminal Mischief – North Hall
9:36 P.M. Area Check – Minor Field
11:25 P.M. Disorderly Conduct – Tolles Pavilion

Sunday, April 10, 2016

12:01 A.M. Noise Complaint – Milbank
12:44 A.M. Area Check – Burke Library

Our journalistic principles

This semester, *The Spectator* has decided to cover a variety of controversial topics ranging from issues at the Health and Counselling Centers to changes in the Africana Studies Department. In each and every issue, *The Spectator* is always striving to publish accurate, relevant, newsworthy material, with the goal of keeping the community informed and engaged.

When presented with challenging content to deliver, the *Spec* staff is careful to weigh our dual responsibilities of transparency and the good of the community before choosing to publish a story. We are proud of our Style Guide, which is based on the Society of Professional Journalist's ethical guidelines, and which devotes specific sections towards journalistic standards and fair reporting.

We appreciate that the College community has responded passionately to our work this semester. We want to provide every party with equal space to voice an opinion. We look forward to the continued discussions that our reporting has initiated and encouraged, and we invite your feedback through letters-to-the-editor.

The Spectator

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The Spectator editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.

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The Spectator is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely and high-quality publication.

Please Recycle Your Copy of *The Spectator*

Celebrating 167 years, we were first published as The Radiator *in 1848.*

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

Tyson makes push for science literacy

by Maddy Maher '18
Opinion Editor

"You have to be young to think like no one has before."

After hearing Neil Degrasse Tyson speak those words, I was sold. As an Environmental Studies major, I feigned interest in attending Tuesday's Great Names lecture. I know that listening to these talks is a Hamilton rite of passage, and I did not want my lack of enthusiasm to curb that of my Hamilton peers, so I did my best to keep my disinterest to myself. In reality, however, I had no desire to attend whatsoever—I was tired, had a cold and, frankly, felt intimidated by discussions of the enormity of outer space. After the first few minutes of his presentation, I was still not convinced. He prefaced his slideshow with a suggestion—get comfortable, you are going to be here for a while—to which I responded with an eye roll and a heavy sigh.

What I expected was a two-hour discussion of the mysteries of the cosmos, one that I could have easily experienced by watching Tyson's television series from my bed, but I was pleasantly surprised once he starting flipping through his first few slides. He began his presentation with pictures of global currency, each depicting a famous scientist. With great wit, humor and undeniable intelligence, Tyson wove his seemingly disjointed musings on the various bills into a discussion of the ways in which different cultures either promote scientific discovery or crush the intellectual curiosity of their people. From there, his message only became clearer and more compelling.

As his discussion on various cultures and their approach to science progressed, he took no prisoners. Avoiding adherence to "politically correct" standards, he openly discussed the ways in which religious cultures—Islam, Judaism, Christianity—and other national cultures, including our own American social climate, approach scientific discourse. At first, I felt as though he was "calling out" these cultures and I was nearly ready to leave due to discomfort, but I came to realize that he was merely criticizing the equal opportunity of knowledge and exploration for all races, genders and ethnicities. That is when I jumped on board. He was not calling out specific cultures and nations to single out their individual shortcomings, but rather to unite them by calling attention to the global need for scientific literacy. By the time he declared that "if 50 percent of the population [women] doesn't have access to the frontier of discovery, we cannot expect to live in a civilized world," I was enthusiastically applauding along with the thousands of other audience members.

A cause of great discomfort for me, and for others, was when Tyson called out specific religions. Though clearly once again challenging the "politically correct," Tyson brought up sensitive points. Religion, for hundreds of years, has been the mortal enemy of science. It is almost impossible for the two fields to work together simultaneously without conflict. The idea of God creating earth in seven days works directly against the Big Bang Theory, something that is just that, a verifiable theory. Tyson reminded us, however, that religion and science do not always have to be at odds with each other. I believe that the two can coexist if and when humankind undergoes a much needed cultural shift in ideals.

In the end, Tyson's call for scientific literacy proved thought provoking and strangely empowering. As Hamilton students, we are incredibly lucky to live in an environment that fosters intellectual curiosity and interdisciplinary exploration. But what about the rest of the U.S.? Or the rest of the world? The majority of our nation, and billions of people around the world today, lack the basic cultural support that is necessary to carry out intelligent scientific discourse. Furthermore, this cultural—and specifically religious—shortcoming has dulled the national support necessary for the technological revolution our country desperately needs if we hope to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels. Frankly, our scientific illiteracy is unfair to ourselves and to the rest of the world.

As I reflected on my undeniable privilege as a liberal arts student, I decided that this shift in cultural ideals starts with us. We are in a unique position from which we can passionately discuss the science that matters. We can take that passion into the world beyond Hamilton and help galvanize the movement for scientific literacy. We have the tools to be the future communicators of and ambassadors to the "frontier of discovery," as Tyson was for us. Why shouldn't we strive to bring religious people, women, children, impoverished nations, etc. the tools that they deserve to be succesfully innovative. If we cannot help others, they cannot help themselves.

Tyson's talk also reminded me that oftentimes it what you are communicating is oftentimes less important than the educational environment that you create. Tyson's humor, personal anecdotes and casual style illustrated that you can educate and inform without preaching, and that you can communicate intelligently without boasting. Effective communicators such as Tyson, and soon, college students like us, will lead the ever so necessary charge towards global scientific literacy.

PHOTO BY BENJAMIN MITTMAN '18

Tyson spoke to a crowded Fieldhouse on Tuesday night.

Let's talk about the weird area in Commons

by Emily Buff '19
Opinion Contributor

Everyone has seen that table in Commons by the drinks. It has a few desserts or muffins, some cereals, a toaster, two refrigerators and a panini press. There are a lot of people who question the purpose of this table, despite the signs, or who know the purpose of the table but ignore it anyways, using the toaster or the press with bread that is not gluten free. (Hint: this table is for people with with gluten allergies.)

As someone who has a gluten allergy, I have already become accustomed to the stigma by which it is accompanied. People ask me whether or not it could be the placebo effect, what my symptoms are if I eat it (vomit, if you really want to know) and then I usually get a suggestion about how to eat gluten and be fine (which typically involves antioxidants and natural supplements). This stigma has become part of our culture due to nutritionists, stars and that one random person you know who does not eat gluten and claims it makes them feel "so much better." That is all cool, for if it helps then who am I to question it? That being said, it becomes a problem when a gluten allergy is seen as illegitimate and the clean spaces are contaminated.

PHOTO BY CAROLINE HARRINGTON '16

The area in Commons dedicated to students with food allergies.

My roommate cannot have any cross contamination with gluten (more so than I) and she gets terribly sick when that happens. Sadly, I cannot say I have not encountered people using the toaster or press at the gluten free table because it is open or there is not a line or it is cleaner. All of those reasons make sense if not eating gluten is a preference, but for many people, it is not a choice. And as someone who has seen someone try to cram a giant Commons gluten-filled donut in the gluten free toaster, I know that I cannot trust the station to keep me, my roommate and the rest of the students with gluten allergies safe and healthy.

An easy fix for this is to have more of the 'normal food' be gluten free, but this calls in to question the broader problems of the dining halls in general. Hamilton College is small and I love it for that. But that is then accompanied by fewer food options for everyone in general and far fewer options for people with allergies. Often the main entrée at Commons is not gluten free, and so options are limited to something grilled, or a sandwich made on machinery that could be contaminated.

The harder, but more serious problem, is definitely the stigma that now accompanies many food allergies. It is hard to know if people do not eat something because they are allergic or because they chose not to. However, the fact that people choose not to eat certain things should not lessen the respect people have for those with allergies to those foods.

Fixing the contamination problem definitely costs money and time and takes careful planning, and the college only has so much of that to spare. In a market that is constantly competing, it is understandable why this would not be at the top of a college's to do list: food options for people with allergies are not glamorous and are rarely addressed on tours or in any of the glossy brochures. But it is important—everyone needs it and eating in the dining halls is a communal activity where friends are made and relationships are strengthened. So in that vein, should not a basic need such as food be met with relative ease?

What is the deal with keeping kosher?

by Paula Weiman '18 and Caroline Kreidberg '17
Opinion Contributors

Hillel has been meeting with members of the Hamilton administration for over a decade to talk about implementing kosher facilities on campus. Recently, however, we concentrated our efforts to push for these facilities, partly in response to an incident last week, as well as in response to the general lack of progress over the past several years. We do not expect to have these facilities overnight, but we do think it is reasonable for the administration to give us a concrete timeline on the project to improve kosher facilities at Hamilton. Our newly public efforts have prompted a lot of questions, which we hope to address in this article.

What does kosher mean?

The laws of kashrut come from the Torah, and they dictate what is or is not kosher. These laws are too complex to explain fully in this article, but here are some of the basics: no mixing of meat and dairy; no shellfish; no pork; all livestock must be raised and butchered according to specific humane standards in order for the meat from that livestock to be kosher, which means that chicken (which is a kosher meat) is not kosher unless it has been certified that the chicken was raised and butchered according to those standards; utensils, dishes, cookware and cooking appliances that are used to cook food that is un-kosher are no longer kosher and render anything that they touch un-kosher.

What are the kosher facilities like at Hamilton?

There are no kosher dining options or facilities at Hamilton College. Hillel currently has a closet that does not lock, a refrigerator and a broken microwave. There is not a kosher oven or stove top, which means none of the food we have cooked has ever been truly kosher, although we prepare it in a way that would be kosher if a kosher oven were available. As woefully insufficient as the situation is now, it has been worse in the past. Before we were given the closet, we had to store our dishes in a Tupperware bin in the entryway to one of the bathrooms in Azel Backus House. However, at this rate of improvement, it will be decades before we have access to a kosher kitchen.

There are no truly kosher options in the dining halls either. It is not a matter of searching the dining hall diligently for something that works for a kosher meal; every meal that the dining hall serves is not kosher, no matter the ingredients that are in that particular meal, because it is served on plates and prepared with cookware and eaten with utensils that are not kosher.

Why is this an issue right now?

Last Thursday, a Hillel e-board member observed members of a different organization using kitchen items from the Hillel closet in Azel Backus House to cook food that was not kosher, including shellfish and pork, which means those items and everything they have touched are no longer kosher. They also stored non-kosher food in the Hillel fridge, so that fridge is no longer kosher, and neither is the food being stored within it. While there is a process to kasher a kosher item that was contaminated and make it kosher again, which we will use for the fridge, that process is only applicable in specific instances—for example, if a kosher meat dish has been contaminated by dairy—and that process requires tools that we do not have access to on this campus. Furthermore, it is not possible to re-kasher a dish that has touched foods that were never kosher, such as shellfish or pork. Nor should we have to; those are our personal dishes, paid for by Hillel for the sole purpose of having kosher-style dishes available for people who keep kosher.

Even though much of the Hamilton community is learning about this issue now for the first time, the problem is not new. Hillel students and advisors have been trying to work on a solution with the administration for over a decade. The idea for a kosher kitchen did not originate with the incident a week ago; we have been asking the administration to approve a plan for a kosher facility and allow us to fundraise for years.

Why does Hillel think they deserve an exclusive, private kitchen?

That is not actually what we want. We want a kosher kitchen. It is not possible to have kosher food that is not prepared in a kosher kitchen. The kosher kitchen would not be private or exclusive; rather, it would be regulated and monitored to the degree that we can ensure the kitchen remains kosher. As is currently the case, all students, faculty and staff would be welcome at every Hillel event. Hillel is an open organization. Anyone can come to Shabbat and enjoy a kosher meal. A kosher kitchen would benefit the entire campus community because it would make it easier for us to prepare the Shabbat meal we cook for the campus every week.

Right now there is no facility on campus that can accommodate our needs. People have to stand at our services because there is not enough space to sit in Azel Backus, the building where our closet is located. The oven in Azel Backus is broken to the point that it is a safety hazard; in order to open it, we must raise the stovetop, use utensils to pry open the oven lock and then open the oven door. In a meeting this week, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Nancy Thompson recommended a potential temporary alternative to Azel Backus, which Hillel is willing to try, although the temporary space is not kosher either and comes with its own set of complications.

We want to stress that we are not just asking for a place to cook dinner. We are asking for one space on campus to be kosher so that we can can properly celebrate Shabbat, an event which is one of the most important religious and cultural aspects of Judaism.

Is it really necessary to have kosher options at Hamilton?

Yes. Keeping kosher is not a choice; it is an important aspect of the Jewish religion. I cannot choose not to follow the laws of kashrut (which dictate what is and is not kosher) any more than I can choose not observe the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur; because I am Jewish and that is part of how I practice Judaism, I must do those things. Refusing Jews the right to keep kosher is a time-honored tradition among those who seek to oppress Jews, from the Ancient Assyrians to the Nazis. During the Holocaust, people suspected of being Jews were ordered to break kosher laws by eating pork to prove they were not Jewish, and many refused; there are Jewish people who have died rather than break kosher laws.

Some people have suggested that we are treating kosher food as a higher or equal priority to food allergies. This is simply not the case. We understand that food allergies can be quite severe. We are not asking that food allergies not be accommodated; we are asking that our religious beliefs be addressed and accommodated. The way that I have been raised to practice Judaism has never imposed punishment for breaking kashrut, but I have never intentionally broken kashrut. To me, that would constitute a rejection of my religion. Telling me that I have the choice not to keep kosher is akin to telling me that I have the choice not to be Jewish. Being Jewish is not simply a choice that I make; it is who I am. No one has the right to tell someone else to "choose" not to be true to their identity.

As for food allergies, Hillel accommodates everyone who approaches us with their dietary restrictions. We regularly prepare separate meals for students who cannot eat certain foods but still wish to celebrate Shabbat with us. We understand the importance of providing options for students with food allergies, even though it would be more convenient and cheaper not to prepare them separately. We do this because it is important to us to be an inclusive organization, and we want everyone who wants to participate in our holiday celebrations is able to do so. We are asking Hamilton College to extend the same courtesy to us, to accommodate and be inclusive of the Jewish identities of those who follow kashrut.

What can I do to help?

Educate yourself and others. We have been asking for this for over a decade. If it was not truly important we would have given up by now. If you are confused about anything, reach out to members of Hillel. There will be events in the coming weeks to learn more about what it means to keep kosher—show up! Most of all, keep talking about this. When everyone recognizes that it is important, that is when we will really be able to make things change.

Thumbs Up

Recruit a friend to Italian: We're sure the department would have a much easier time recruiting if the language table dinners were moved to Olive Garden.

Recycling video contest: It's pretty easy to win. Just hit replay!

4/20 on Wednesday: But we want to eat a whole pizza now!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thumbs Down

Creative Writing Thesis Readings: On Tuesday and Wednesday, you'll have the chance to see Carrie and Jessye read the work they're most proud of, which, in light of ignored deadlines, is this column.

SPAC: On Friday, you'll have the chance to see Carrie and Jessye perform the work they're most proud of, the words of a white Philly rapper.

A Two Person Reading of Mrs. 'Doubtfire' on the Clinton Village Green: On Thursday 4/28, you'll have the chance to see Carrie and Jessye illuminate the work they're most proud of, a 1993 screenplay they still haven't found online.

Who Cares?

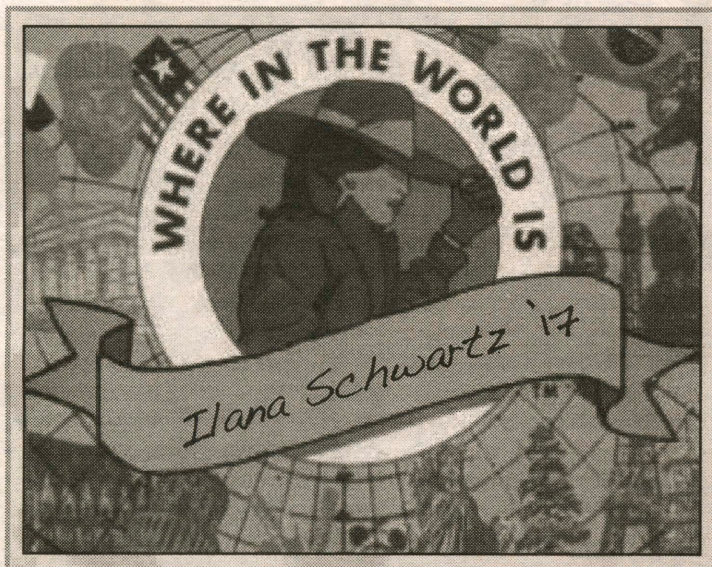
Senior Pub: But the only 3 dollar draft we want to buy is that of a completed thesis.

C&C Performer Announced: Wow, we can hardly believe that it's already our fourth Class and Charter Day. It's just like the old saying, "Time goes by when you're having fun!"

Commons Opened Early for Neil DeGrasse Tyson: And finding a seat was the Space Race of the 21st century.

by Jessye McGarry '16 and Carrie Solomon '16

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ILANA SCHWARTZ '17

by Ilana Schwartz '17
FEATURES CONTRIBUTOR

Last summer I had what I like to call a "mid-college crisis." I realized that everything I was doing was wrong. All throughout my time at Hamilton, I tried to take the practical route by doing what I thought would be best for my future. Becoming an Economics major, preparing to study abroad in Spain to improve my Spanish skills and even getting an internship in a field that I was not super interested in; all lead me to where I am now—Budapest, Hungary.

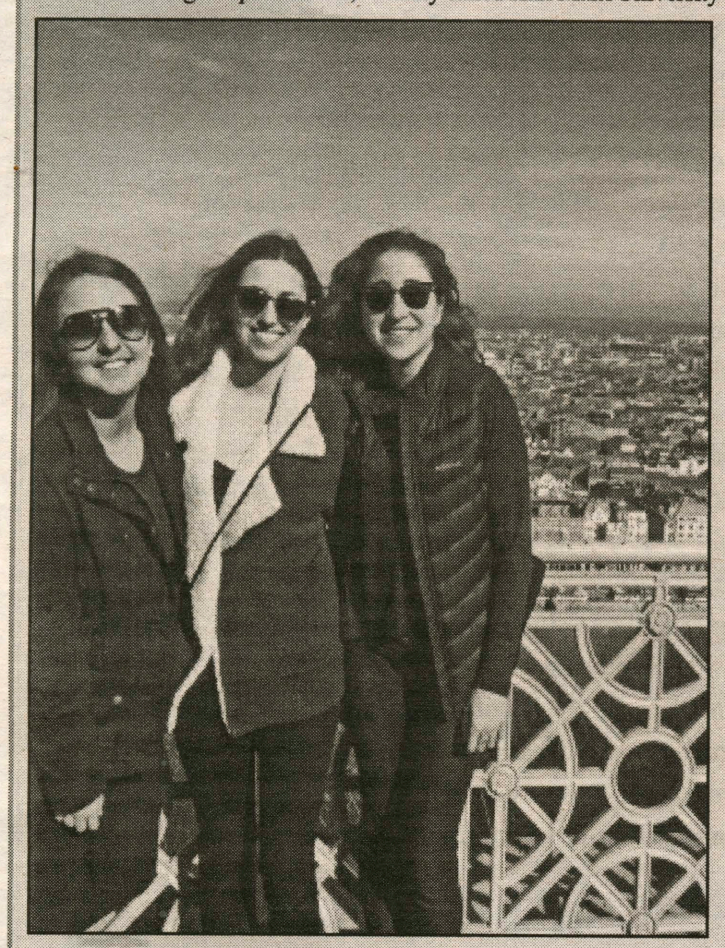
On July 13, 2015, I realized that I needed to start doing things that I actually cared about, rather than the things that seemed right! It was on that day that I opened up Hamilton's list of pre-approved study abroad programs for the first time. Scrolling through, I could not believe my eyes. I felt like the entire world was my oyster—there were so many options that I had never even known about! The city that struck me at first glance was Budapest. I honestly don't even know why I was so immediately interested, but without even doing any research, I started my application for the spring semester. This was the first time I had done something so spontaneous, and it really felt incredible.

When I arrived in Budapest, I had no idea what to expect, given the limited amount of research I had done prior to my departure. I did not even know a single Hungarian word! I won't lie, the first few days were a struggle. I live in an apartment with three other girls who are from all around America. On the first night, only hours after arrival, we had been told to meet for the first orientation session. Unfortunately, the program director did not give us very specific directions and of course we did not yet know our way around the city. We found ourselves lost on "Vag Street," which was an hour out of the way from where we were supposed to be! We could not even ask for directions, because finding people who speak English in Budapest can sometimes be hard.

Taking showers is also interesting because our apartment does not have a shower curtain. Our water is heated by a "space heater" that has an open flame, so a shower curtain is considered a "fire hazard." But it only took several days to get used to small differences like these and realize that Budapest is without a doubt my favorite city that I have ever been to.

I am a student at Corvinus University of Budapest, which was actually called Karl Marx University during the communist regime. It is a Hungarian school for business and economics. No, my classes are not in Hungarian (there's no way I'd pass), since I am enrolled in the international students program, but I am taking a Hungarian language course. It is a very difficult language to learn, coming from an English background, because it is in the Uralic language family so even the alphabet is new and different. However, I have learned a lot of practical sayings, like how to ask for directions or buy things in a grocery store. In case you are curious, the longest word in the Hungarian language is "megszentségtelenithetetlenségeitekét," pronounced meg-cent-shegteleneeth-ehteht-lensheg-eeteket, and it does not really have a clear English translation. Try saying it in one breath … it is impossible!

Schwartz and friends pose with a statue of revolutionary leader Imre Nagy.



I am taking four other classes, all of which are about Hungarian and European Union politics and economics. One of my professors is named Péter Ákos Bod, and he is a very well established economist who was the governor of the Hungarian National Bank right after the communist regime ended. His signature used to be on one of the Forint bills. It is as if he is Hungary's Alexander Hamilton.

You probably do not know much about Budapest, so let me explain why it is truly amazing. First of all, Hungary is a food melting pot, which works perfectly for me because I am always hungry. Being the foodie that I am, I have made eating my way through Europe a priority. I can find literally anything, from sushi to pizza to burgers and of course plenty of traditional Hungarian food. My favorite Hungarian dish is goulash, a beef and vegetable soup that is heavily seasoned with paprika. Another common food in Hungarian restaurants is fried cheese, which is obviously delicious and right up my alley. Luckily, prices are very cheap. The currency is the Hungarian forint (HUF) and 280 HUF is equal to approximately $1, so going out for meals does not burn a huge hole in my wallet, giving me the chance to try so many new things!

Following the horror of the Holocaust, Budapest's Jewish District became a slum with abandoned buildings lining the streets. Entrepreneurs in the area decided to turn these buildings into bars as a means of making a living, and it turned out to be a very successful business venture! This is how Budapest's "ruin pubs" formed throughout the Jewish District, helping the neighborhood develop into a vibrant scene at night. Ruin pubs are very Hungarian; I do not think you can find anything like them anywhere else in the world. Nowadays, the ruin pubs vary in style. Some are like bars and others are more like clubs, but either way they are all very eclectic, as if someone went digging through a junkyard to find art for the walls. The vibes in each one are amazing and they are truly unique to Budapest.

Hungary has so much rich history. As a member of the losing side of nearly every war that it participated in, Hungary's history is certainly tragic, but is quite fascinating to learn about, especially from tour guides and professors who have lived through some of the country's darkest times. I do not want to go into a history lesson here, but I will say that the communist regime ended only 27 years ago and there are still remains of this history that can be seen throughout the city. As a member of the Soviet Union's eastern bloc until 1989, there was a lot of social, economic, and political unrest in Hungary. Whether you look at the architecture and poor conditions of some buildings scattered around the city, the hammer and sickle symbol engraved in bricks used to construct these buildings, or the many monuments commemorating the failed 1956 revolution against the Soviets, it is evident that living conditions were less than ideal during the regime. Although the country has a fairly long way to go to fully grow out of the residual impact of communism, it has definitely progressed very far towards a market economy and more modern society.

Hungary is located in Central Europe, which makes traveling by both plane and train very easy. I have had the opportunity to go to many places, and I have many more trips planned, but I miss Budapest more and more each time I leave. I could not be more thankful that I ended up here, and I think I have to give some credit to fate, since I did not put much thought into my decision in the first place!

Bachelorette and Bachelorette

Janika Beatty '17

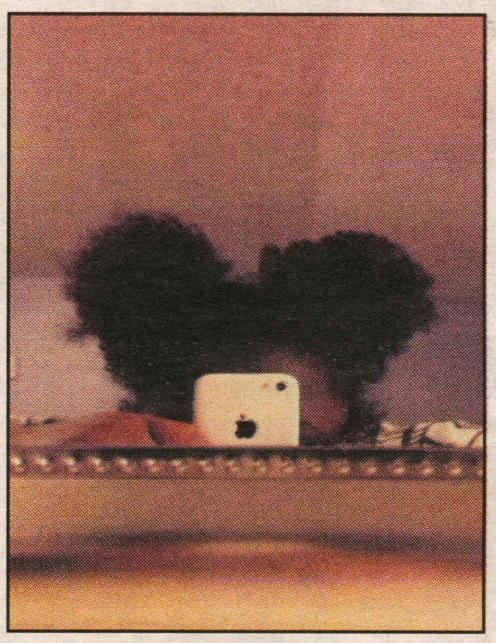


PHOTO COURTESY OF JANIKA BEATTY '17

Hometown: *Malden, MA.*
Home on Campus: *Babbitt.*
Major: *Women's Studies.*
Turn On? *Trust funds.*
Turn Off? *Bad music tastes.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Babz.*
Lights on or lights off? *Lights dimmed?*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Kanye and Ke$ha.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *Finger-lickin' good.*
What TV genre best describes you? *Telenovelas.*
What's your type? *USD.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Lipstick, septum rings, platform heels.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *Half the Annex because I'm not as lowkey as I think I am.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *Are we ever not alone?*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Isn't there a club devoted to orgies or something like that?*
What's your patronus and why? *$$$ we know why.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Aesthetic discernment.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Shrimp.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Winter.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *@enwhymags.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *RWTM.*
What would your perfect date be? *Literally pay my student loans.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *A shrine to Isla Ng.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Please stop wearing salmon shorts with salmon hats with salmon hats. Please.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Chicken nugget. If you think about it, it makes sense.*

Jessi Crowley '16

PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSI CROWLEY '16

Hometown: *Woodinville, WA.*
Home on Campus: *Fhaus C.*
Major: *Psychology.*
Turn On? *Onesies.*
Turn Off? *Twosies.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Farmhouse because I'm asbestos it gets.*
Lights on or lights off? *Hit those circuit breakers and see what happens.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Macklemore and Ingrid Michaelson because I like to dance but I also like to cry in my bed alone.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *Oooooooo ya, oooooo ya, only at Carl's Furniture...OOOOOOoooooo yaaaaaaaaa.*
What TV genre best describes you? Naked and Afraid.
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *You put my tray table in the upright position ;) (to be used on an airplane).*
What's your type? *Myers-Brigg personality type?*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Q-tips, ice cream and Lactaid pills.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *Sadove basement because I used to be cool.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *My Harry Potter closet of a room.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Pre-med, because then maybe I would have a job right now.*
What's your patronus and why? *Red panda because I'm small and cuddly.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Sitting on roofs.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Sweatshirt dresses.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Pants you can't relax in.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Blaire Alyssa Frett.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Tara McKee.*
What would your perfect date be? *Eating ramen and watching* Jane the Virgin *with my roommates, no boys involved.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *A Johnny Cash deluxe two-record set.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Walking slowly in Commons.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Wintergreen Lifesaver mints because I spark in your mouth.*

TS Steakhouse takes dining to new heights

by Sophia Gaulkin '17
Features Editor

The Turning Stone Resort Casino is a popular place for some Hamilton students to get a taste of Vegas-like gambling, but others go for a taste of something different: steakhouse dining.

While many students come to Turning Stone "to game," like Alexander Popovic '16, after a successful night of gambling, the TS Steakhouse might just be the perfect way to treat yourself.

Matias Wolansky '16, self-proclaimed card shark, has a great deal of respect for the "intellectual puzzle" that is poker, attributing his success to a liberal arts education that promotes "advanced logical reasoning, mathematics and a strong understanding of psychology." Beyond the cerebral benefits, he adds, "It's a nice source of supplemental income." The TS Steakhouse can be pricey, but for regulars to the casino like Wolansky, it is an invaluable part of the entire experience of Turning Stone—he always orders the Veal Tomahawk.

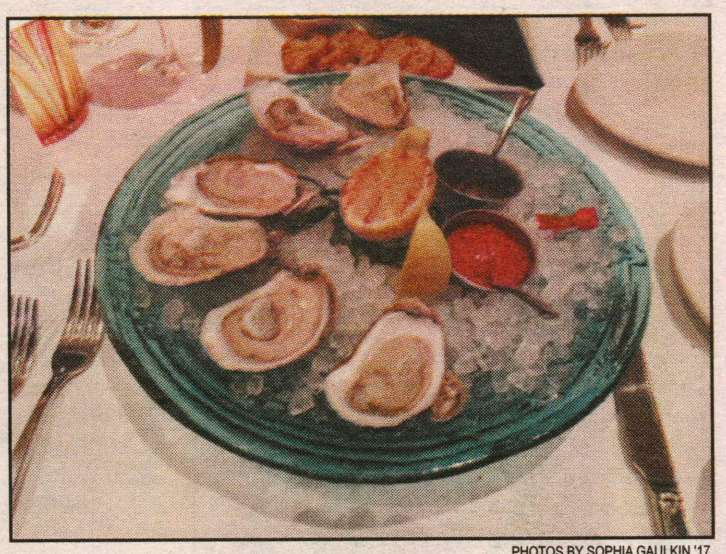
TS Steakhouse boasts "high taste and lifted spirits," referencing its location on top of the Turning Stone Tower. To get to the restaurant, you have to take a special elevator inside the casino that goes exclusively to the 21st floor. Naturally, the restaurant offers a panoramic view of Verona from that elevation.

Escargot with garlic lemon butter, toasted baguette croutons and red wine butter.

From the first step out of the elevator, it is clear that extraordinary time and energy goes into making every detail of the physical space reflect the casual elegance for which TS Steakhouse is known. It is almost too carefully orchestrated; the drunken demeanor of many guests betrays the fantasy of refinement that the staff works hard to cultivate.

Without a doubt, their image is important to them; almost comically, the restaurant credits its menu to "the cultural dining history of the Oneida Indians" and their practice of eating "locally sourced and sustainable foods." If they were truly inspired by the Oneida people, perhaps they would have emphasized their dietary staples: meats like deer and raccoon, lots of nuts and complex carbohydrates such as wild rice and dandelions. Forced connections to indigenous people aside, I appreciate TS Steakhouse's support of local, sustainably sourced ingredients.

The restaurant certainly sets itself apart from the traditional idea of a steakhouse. While it specializes in beef steaks and other portions of meat or fish, gluten-free options and vegetarian alternatives are also available. There is no single dish that is left without a creative culinary flair; even a traditionally basic appetizer like the iceberg wedge is infused with maple bacon.



PHOTOS BY SOPHIA GAULKIN '17

Oysters on the half shell with champagne pear mignonette and horseradish cocktail sauce.

What TS Steakhouse lacks in authenticity and natural charm is more than compensated for by the sheer quality of the food—it is truly fantastic, and I have no criticisms to offer on that front. Even the bread was memorable; lemon tarragon butter and red wine butter accompanied various types of freshly baked rolls. TS especially shines with its selection of sauces, which includes, but is not limited to, their signature TS steak sauce, a horseradish cream sauce, a cabernet demi glaze and a classic béarnaise sauce.

And, despite a clear focus on steak, for the more pescatarian-leaning guests like myself, the Miso Sea Bass was phenomenal. Baked with a miso glaze, the outside is crisp while the inside practically melts in your mouth. I had to close my eyes from sensory overload—it was just too good.

Even after a lucrative winning streak at the casino, TS Steakhouse still ought to be reserved for special occasions due to its privileged nature as an almost overwhelming dining experience.

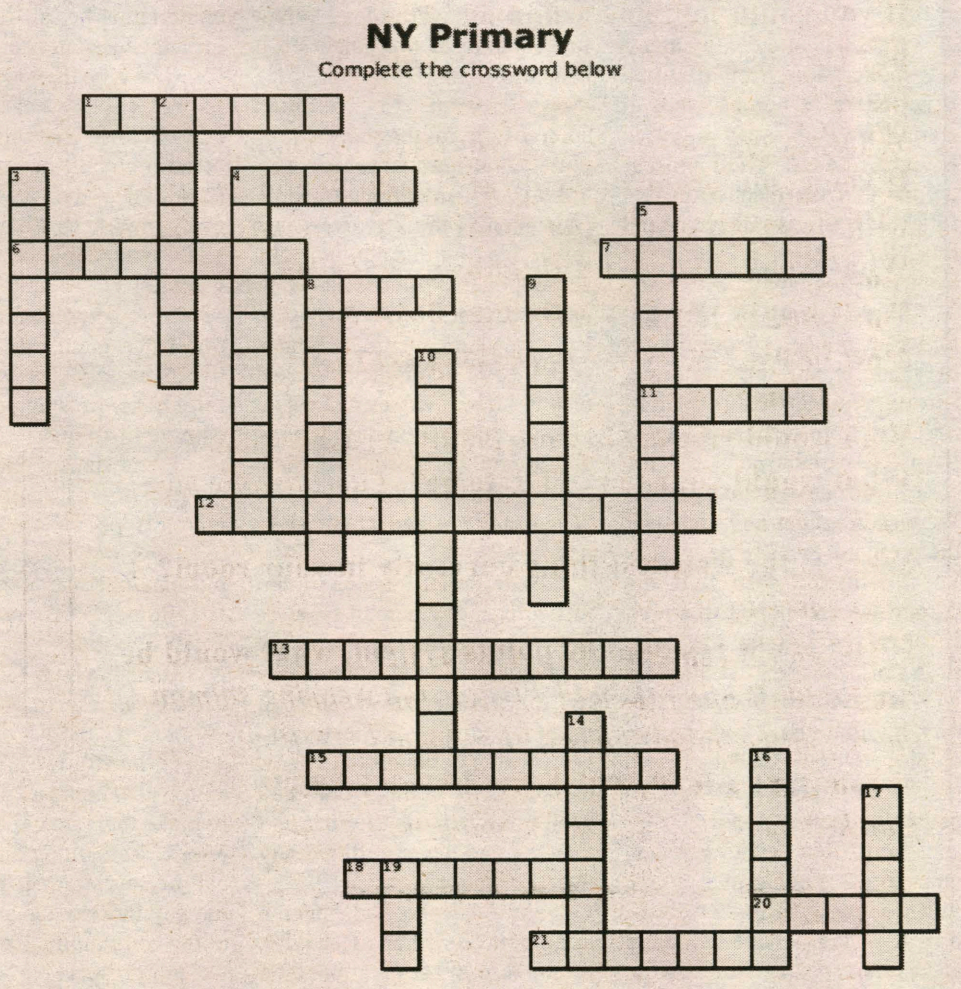
TS Steakhouse at Turning Stone is located at 5218 Patrick Road, Verona. It is closed Monday and Tuesday, open Wednesday and Thursday from 5-10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 5-11 p.m. and Sunday from 5-10 p.m. Call 800-771-7711 or 315-361-7711 for reservations.

Excited for the New York Primary this weekend? Are you feeling the Bern or are you on Team Hill? Any chance you're trying to make America great again, or are you just Cruzing along? Regardless of your beliefs and party affiliation, we can all come together over this New York political history crossword puzzle!

by Ian Antonoff '16 and Amelia Heller '16
Features Contributors

Across:
1. Month in which president assumes office
4. Republican predicted to win NY
6. Required age to vote
7. Date of the November 2016 general election
8. Number of languages on NYC's ballot
11. First president born in NY
12. Mapping district boundaries to ensure election for one party
13. The final state primary
15. Republican delegates for NY
18. Current NY male senator
20. 2012 New York general election winner
21. Democrat predicted to win in NY

Down:
2. Constitutional amendment that gave women the right to vote
3. Day of the week that the general election is always held
4. Number of electoral votes that NY has
5. Current NY female senator
8. 13th US president to be born in NY
9. Last name of two presidents born in NY
10. Where the first primary is held every cycle
14. NY generally tends to be more....
16. First state to establish a presidential primary
17. Current NY Governor
19. Station hosting 2016 NY primary debate



Last Week's Answers:
Across: 3. Maravich 4. Larry Brown 6. Kansas City 8. Florida 10. Duke 11. Carmelo Anthony 14. Kentucky 15. Walton 17. UNLV 18. Big Dance 20. eight 21. DePaul Down: 1. Krzyzewski 2. UCLA 5. Wooden 6. Kevin Durant 7. Cincinnati 9. Phoenix 12. Carr 13. Slam Dunk 16. Kansas 19. eleven 22. UNC

From Where I Sit:
Hamilton's International Perspectives

by Nejla Asimovic '16
Features Contributor

for·eign: *strange and unfamiliar; introduced from an outside source*

On March 19, I was celebrating my nephew's first birthday and spending the second week of my spring break in Istanbul with my family. The celebration was wonderful, until it was overshadowed by the tragic news that a suicide bombing had taken place in one of Istanbul's central shopping districts. Six days earlier, on the March 13, more than 35 people were killed and 100more injured by a car bomb that exploded in the heart of Turkish capital, Ankara. On March 22, there was yet another devastating attack, this time at the airport and a metro station in Brussels, which killed more than 30 people. At the Istanbul airport, as I boarded a plane bound for New York City just one day after the attack in Brussels, I could not stop thinking about the far-reaching geopolitical consequences that these attacks may have. Moreover, threats of closing borders and turning our backs to each other made me think about how much the openness of the world and inter-cultural exchanges benefited me and affected who I am today. As you may have guessed by now, I am majoring in world politics.

I was born in Kosovo (now an independent country, at the time part of Serbia), but my family moved to Bosnia in 1998, when NATO launched its bombing air campaign. Bosnia had problems of its own, and was still recovering from the Bosnian War and the 1995 genocide. Yes, the '90s were not a great time for the republics of the former Yugoslavia. People were hung up on dividing into their own countries and the consequential political disputes brought with them the mass-murder of people over ethnic differences. The wars were complex, to say the least (unnecessary is another word that comes to my mind), but behind all the politics and economics was the oldest reason to fight in the Balkans: religion. Therefore, from an early age I became aware of the devastating consequences that focusing on our differences can bring. From my perspective today as a young adult, growing up in the Balkans accelerated my transition from a very young child into a very aware teenager, and helped me become accustomed to the idea of politics as one of the most important determinants of human security. Somewhere along the away, I realized that the most powerful and valuable weapon I could acquire was to study at a renowned institution of higher education in the United States.

So, here I am today, an international student at Hamilton College. Hamilton's percentage of international students might not be high, but we come from all across the world. My first and closest friend since day one on this campus is Tina from Bulgaria; I deeply admire the amazing work that my Ethiopian friend Tsion does; I have the most interesting political conversations with Ming from Hong Kong; and my Kenyan friend Leonard and Georgian friend Luka never fail to bring a smile to my face with their positive attitudes. On the other hand, my roommates come from across the United States and I have loved every moment we have spent living together. Learning about the differences in the ways we grew up or the values that we cherish the most has always been intriguing and exciting, and has shattered even the tiniest of the prejudices we may have had about each other.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEJLA ASIMOVIC '16

We all become better by not being afraid of the foreign, but by being open to it. As a senior looking back at my four years at Hamilton, I am amazed by how much my viewpoints have broadened, and how much I have learned from the personal stories of all of my friends and acquaintances I made during my time in the U.S. My junior year, during which I studied abroad in Spain and Washington, D.C., was an equally rewarding experience that showed me how intrinsically similar we all are, regardless of where we come from. That does not mean that our cultures, values or habits are the same (I am still not used to having dinner before 9 p.m. and, after a few failed tries, I gave up on learning the rules of American football). What it does mean is that everyone across the globe seeks acceptance, support and opportunities to live a dignified life. Now more than ever we must not be led by fear, as nothing good can ever result in letting our differences define us and divide us. Trust me, coming from the Balkans, I do know. So, next time you meet someone with a background different from yours, I hope you stop and truly listen to what that person is saying. What you hear may challenge your views and, while their words and ideas may not change the world, they might change you. And that's a good start.

This week 25 years ago: Homosexuals Share Experiences

by Jane Degenhardt
News Editor

A student and faculty member spoke about their personal experiences as homosexuals at Hamilton Wednesday night in Dwight Lounge. Their presentations and the discussion that followed comprised the third and final part of the series "Same Sex Love and Society."

Mark Thompson, Psychological Counselor/Coordinator of Training and Programming and a representative for the Committee to Extend Human Rights [CEHR], which sponsored the series, introduced the speakers Wednesday night and recapped the previous two events.

Thompson said that the committee had hoped to solicit speakers representing the Hamilton staff and administration, as well as the student body and faculty, but that many homosexual employees of the College feared their appearance would lead to negative repercussions.

Pam Allen, Visiting Assistant Professor of German, spoke first, commenting on her disapproval of "tags," which separate and exclude people. She said the stigma attached to homosexuality in society could be undermined if all people focused on their common humanity.

"In talking about humanity, I think it's important to celebrate difference," she added. "Not just tolerate it, but celebrate it heartily."

Allen went in to speak about some of the myths society promotes about homosexual people. "Many well-intentioned people [mistakenly] think gayness is a result of a troubled childhood or something in the genes that went haywire," she observed.

She said sometimes homosexuality is a "choice"—based on political convictions, physical pleasure, or emotional feelings—and sometimes it is not a choice. Allen maintained that, above all, "Gays are not sad about their gayness."

Next, Allen focused on the difficulty a gay person faces in first acknowledging his or her own gayness and the "invisibility" that threatens to swallow up his or her identity. Reflecting on her own experience, Allen remarked that "coming out" had been relatively easy for her and that she had never suffered any overt prejudice.

She said she had spent a large portion of her life having a "non-sexual" orientation, then a five-year period during which she was heterosexually oriented, and most recently a second five-year period in which she has been homosexually oriented.

"Invisibility," Allen said, could either be self-imposed, or inflicted by society on a gay person. The type that is inflicted by society is usually not "intentional or malicious," but rather a result of the infamous "heterosexual assumption"—the assumption that everyone is heterosexual and that all normal people are married or want to be.

This heterosexual assumption often manifests itself subtly in society, for example in language or casual written communication.

Chris Banks '91 began his presentation by stating that one out of 10 people are gay or lesbian, yet only one or two homosexuals have "come out" at Hamilton. "Where are the other 159?" he asked.

Banks, who is the president of the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Alliance [GLBSA], directed his speech mostly towards encouraging other homosexual students to make their sexual orientation public. Remaining "in the closet," he said, does harm to both the gay individuals and the rest of the community. He asked, "If we don't respect ourselves, how can we expect others to respect us?"

Indicating that the community at large must also change to make Hamilton a more comfortable place for homosexuals, Banks said there was a need for people to change their way of thinking. "When you think of your world, know it's not the end-all and be-all," he suggested. "There are other perspectives to take into account."

Both Banks and Allen agreed that one of the first steps toward a more accepting Hamilton community was for homosexuals to assert themselves more freely and openly. "If we all come out, people won't think we're all bizarre," said Banks. He maintained that he had never been "harassed" because he always made his homosexuality seem normal, thus "taking the power away" from potential oppressors.

Bank's experience as a homosexual differs from that of Allen in that he has never known a time when he was "straight." His initial feeling that homosexuality was natural and comfortable has enabled him to speak confidently in the public eye, openly challenging those who spread ignorance, including Dr. Ruth Westheimer. Banks said he corrected Dr. Ruth on the air for saying that homosexuality could be "cured" when he was a first-year student.

But his position in the community as an informer and authority on all homosexual issues has been tiring. Banks wishes there were more homosexuals willing to stand up with him. He sympathized with their hesitancy, saying, "To come out, particularly in a place where there are very few gay people out, is absolute hell," but said that "coming out" was necessary. "We have to make it a central issue before it can become a non-issue," he remarked.

The discussion that followed addressed many concerns and at times became heated. One of the issues brought up was the debate over Hamilton's discrimination disclaimer, which says that the College does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or religion, but does not mention sexual orientation.

Other issues that were discussed include "coming out" to one's family, the curriculum, the prospects of a stronger support system for homosexuals, and the observation that attitudes voiced in the privacy of residence halls may not comply with those voiced in the classroom.

A recent display of possible homophobia, which entailed posters advertising a band with the slogan, "We're not queer," was also referred to throughout the discussions.

The Crooked Road On Tour brings fun night of music and flatfoot dancing

by Max Newman '16
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Hamilton College Performing Arts hosted a three-part concert last Friday, Apr. 8, that featured performances of traditional Southwest Virginian music. The concert included banjo tunes from Julie Shepherd-Powell, original songs from singer/songwriter Sandy Shortridge and a collection of songs from The Whitetop Mountain band that have remained in their family for generations.

According to its website, The Crooked Road is a "330 mile driving trail through the mountains of Southwest Virginia that connects nine major [music] venues and 60 affiliated venues and festivals." The idea began in 2003 and resonated immediately with surrounding communities that truly considered music to be part of their daily lives. A non-profit, The Crooked Road is funded by these communities as well as other regional and national endowments and commissions. Events and concerts are held year round.

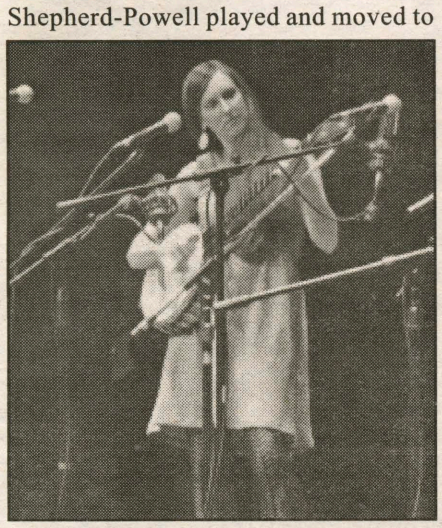
As a music-filled trail, The Crooked Road serves not only to celebrate the great mountain music of Virginia, but also to keep the music alive as it continues to move through both the oral and now recorded traditions. The program that came to Hamilton, The Crooked Road on Tour, is meant to educate all interested persons on the historical significance of the music and to attract them to experience the music of the Appalachian region first-hand.

The night began with a short introduction and a video illustrating the historical significance of the region's music. Many of the songs from the region were brought over in the 1700s by Scottish, Irish and English immigrants. When technical difficulties cut the video short, the Crooked Road representative said, "Well the heck with that. How about some live music?"

Out came the first opener, award-winning flatfoot dancer Julie Shepherd-Powell. Shepherd-Powell warmed up the audience with a couple of banjo tunes, during which she showcased the traditional clawhammer technique that Professor of Music Lydia Hamessley can often be seen playing in Cafe Opus. Though the performance seemed stiff at first, the audience caught on to the inclusive nature of mountain music as Shepherd-Powell played and moved to classic tunes like "Chilly Winds." She closed her performance with a showcase of flatfoot dancing, much more of which was to come later on in the night.

PHOTOS BY KYANDREIA JONES '19

Members of the Whitetop Mountain Band perform songs that have been passed down in their family for hundreds of years.



Julie Shepherd-Powell warms up the crowd with traditional banjo tunes, including "Chilly Winds."

Shepherd-Powell was followed by singer/songwriter Sandy Shortridge. Shortridge performed original titles about her life in the mountains. She used just an acoustic guitar to share intimate accounts of her family members' lives, most memorably including "Journey to the Light," in which Shortridge shared her father's experience as a coal miner.

Following the song, Shortridge shared what her father told her: When the day was done, he would look up and see a tiny white speck of light way off into the distance—they would climb and climb, and the light would slowly get bigger until they reached the top. Shortridge took that imagery and wrote a song re-creating the emotion she imagined he had felt in the pitch black coal mine. Her last song was lighter about life on the mountains, including a chorus about the cold spring water.

The final act featured the renowned Whitetop Mountain Band. Led by the young and energetic Martha Spencer, the band also included her mother Emily Spencer (banjo/vocals), her father Thornton Spencer (fiddle), Ersel Fletcher (guitar/vocals) and Debbie Bramer (bass). First they played a barnyard song, complete with the yells of farm animals that was meant to wake up and energize the crowd.

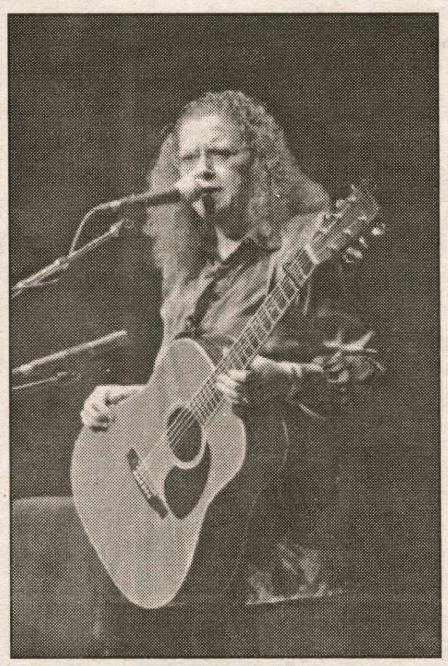
This fun tune was followed by a tune with the line "I am going down this road feeling bad." Yet the band made this mountain song comical and rhythmic with various performers on vocals.

As audience members gradually began dancing in their seats, members of the Whitetop Mountain Band began taking turns flatfoot dancing. Though they showcased various styles, Martha Spencer truly stole the spotlight with fast-paced, twisting-and-turning moves that captured the audience's attention.

The most powerful element of the show was its inclusive nature. The band encouraged the audience to get up and dance, as well as join them on stage. Though that never happened, it points to the culture of The Crooked Road music. Performances are not meant to be concerts in the traditional sense, but a location where people gather to have a good time and dance.

Because of the music's inclusive nature, the concert's placement in Wellin Hall might have been more of a hinderance than a benefit. If the concert had been held in the Barn, not only would audience members have been physically closer to the performers, but there would have been room to dance with them. If the concert took place later in the spring or early in the fall, the concert could even have been outside.

Granted, the main purpose was of the performance was to get a taste of music from The Crooked Road. The audience was certainly impressed, and hopefully the concert will be featured in a more inclusive environment if Hamilton is lucky enough to have them visit again.



Sandy Shortridge shares original, intimate songs about daily life in the southwest Virginia mountains.

WHCL 88.7FM

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Jeff Greenwald '17

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Preview: Hamilton College Theatre Department presents *Spring Awakening*

by Olivia Paradice '18
Arts & Entertainment Contributor

Set in 19th century Germany, *Spring Awakening* tells the story of a group of teenagers struggling through the turmoil of their burgeoning sexuality. The original play is known for touching on topics that are still relevant and controversial over 100 years after it was written, such as teenage pregnancy, the power struggle between teenagers and adults and the suppression of sexuality. The musical takes this subject matter and 19th century timeframe and sets it to a soundtrack that mixes folk and alternative rock with surprisingly effective results. The musical opens at Hamilton College this weekend, the first musical to be performed by the Hamilton College Theatre Department in a very long time.

One of the major themes of *Spring Awakening* is the way in which adults end up suppressing children in an attempt to "protect" them. All of the adult characters in the show—parents, teachers and priests alike—are traditionally played by two actors, one man and one woman. In the Hamilton College production, the adult women are portrayed by two actors, Allie Schuette '16 and Noelani Stevenson '19, while the adult men are all portrayed by Andrew Gibeley '16.

Unlike the adult characters, the child characters are all played by different actors. Megan Gehan '18 plays Wendla, a 14-year old girl who tries her best to understand the world around her, but is kept naïve by her domineering and religious mother. Her counterpoint is Melchoir, played by Matt Reinemann '17, a headstrong young boy who knows much more about these forbidden subjects than his peers. Cynical and a self-proclaimed atheist, Melchoir is the main source of much of the rebellion in the musical. His best friend, Moritz, played by Charlie Wilson '16, eventually falls victim to his overwhelming confusion about his sexual feelings and the intense pressure from his parents to succeed.

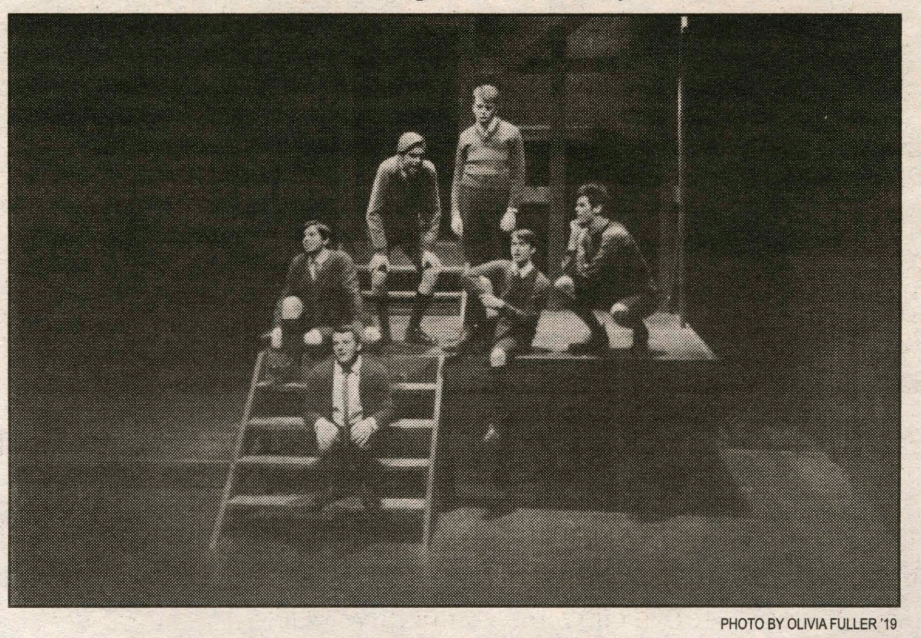


PHOTO BY OLIVIA FULLER '19

The male characters constantly contemplate teenage rebellion and their burgeoning sexuality in the musical *Spring Awakening*.

Caitlin Kennedy '16 plays Martha, a young girl who is abused by her father but keeps much of her story to herself. Ilse, a former classmate of the other characters who is now homeless, played by Caitlin McQuade '18, has a symbolic role for several of the other characters. For Martha, she serves as warning as to what may happen to her if she speaks out about her abuse. For Moritz, she represents his last chance for to escape the oppressive society that surrounds him.

Needless to say, the musical deals with some heavy subject matter. However, *Spring Awakening* is not a show that allows its heavy topics to weigh it down. As the characters of the show do their best to rebel against their repressive society, the music follows suit. Featuring numbers such as "The Bitch of Living" and "My Junk," *Spring Awakening* addresses its subject matter with energetic musical numbers that pull no punches. Indeed, between its highly anachronistic soundtrack and the rebellious nature of both its characters and musical numbers, *Spring Awakening* is a show that lends itself to high-energy performances.

Ambitious and challenging, *Spring Awakening* seems like a wonderful way to reintroduce musical theatre to the Hamilton College stage. With its relevant subject matter and musical numbers that range from melancholic to exhilarating, it is bound to be a can't-miss performance, and one that is sure to get the campus talking.

Screening of *Salam Neighbor* portrays Syrian refugee population crisis

by Ghada Emish '19
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, April 6, Muslim Student Association (MSA), COOP and the Chaplaincy organized the screening of *Salam Neighbor*, a documentary film that examines the Syrian refugee crises under a humanitarian lens.

Salam Neighbor is a film directed by two recent American graduates, Zach Ingrasci and Chris Temple, who firmly believe that films should be dedicated to spreading awareness about pressing social issues and helping people around the globe. The shooting mostly takes place in Zaatari camp in Jordan; Temple and Ingrasci are the first film-makers to be accepted into the camp.

Zaatari camp is located five miles from the Syrian borders and it has become home to 85,000 refugees. *Salam Neighbor* mostly demonstrates that Syrian refugees are forced to leave their homeland because of the atrocious war, rather than as a result of their commitment of any crime in Syria.

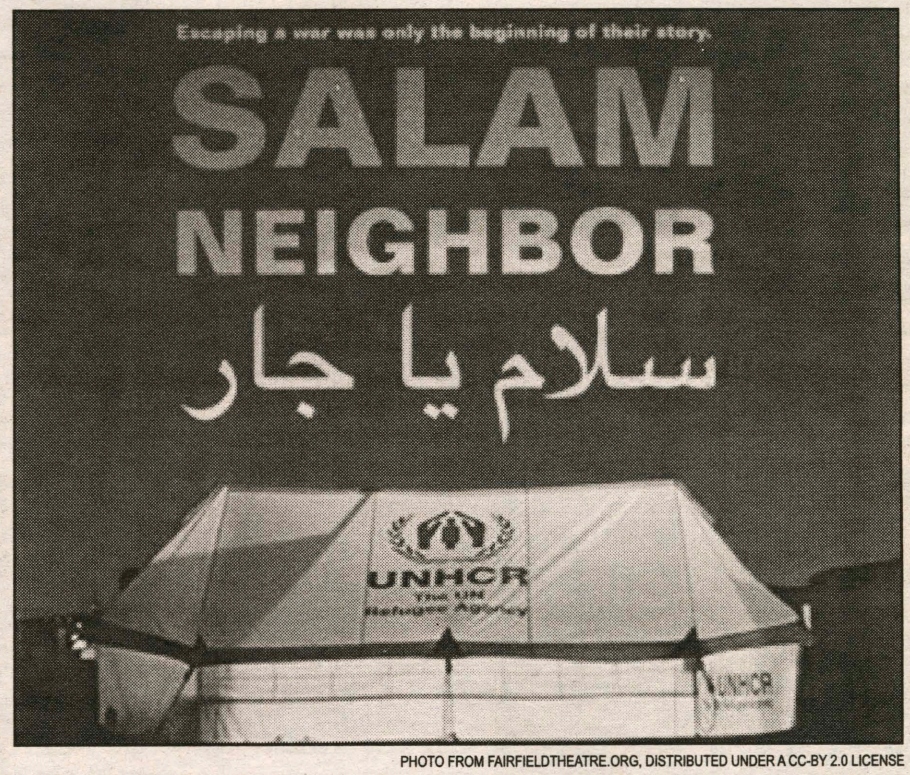
Most refugees do not have the luxury of planning their departure: they do not have enough time to gather their most important belongings and they are forced to quickly take in the situation and adapt themselves to their new lives as refugees. Some people travel, leaving behind other family members, and because of a mere seven mile distance to Syria, the sounds of bombardment make them constantly worried about their relatives and people.

Even though Jordan is an Arab country, there are laws that oblige Syrian refugees to remain within the borders of Zaatari camp; it is quite difficult for Jordan to include the Syrian population because of economic and social issues like unemployment and poverty.

According to the United Nations, Zaatari camp is the fastest growing refugee economy. Syrians are quite hardworking; they opened a market in the camp by buying products from Jordanian merchants and selling them to refugees in Zaatari.

Syrian women cooperated to establish the Women's Center, which helps women take care of their psychological health and remain strong for their families by, talking about their problems and cooperating to find solutions, among other things.

Witnessing war destroy one's country is harder to forget for the younger generation. Raouf is a 10-year old boy who wants to become a doctor when he grows up. However, the shock of seeing his school in Syria being bombarded has made it quite difficult for him to go to school again to achieve his dream. Temple and Ingrasci became friends with Raouf, they took him to a school where some Syrian children receive education, but, unfortunately, Raouf could not focus his attention on the present moment and collapsed to the ground. War seems to be quite purposeless in light of the damage it can impart upon one individual, let alone an entire generation of Syrian refugee children.



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***Salam Neigbor* is a documentary meant to raise awareness about the humanitarian crisis effecting the Syrian refugee population.**

At the end of *Salam Neighbor*, Temple brought up a very important point that terrorist groups like ISIS take advantage of the fact that these children are traumatized and impoverished and tempt them to join their devastating activities for money. This generation is worthy of help because they are not responsible for any of the complicated political issues that were imposed on them.

Salam Neighbor is available at the Hamilton library. If you are interested in getting involved, an organiation to learn about is called Living On One.

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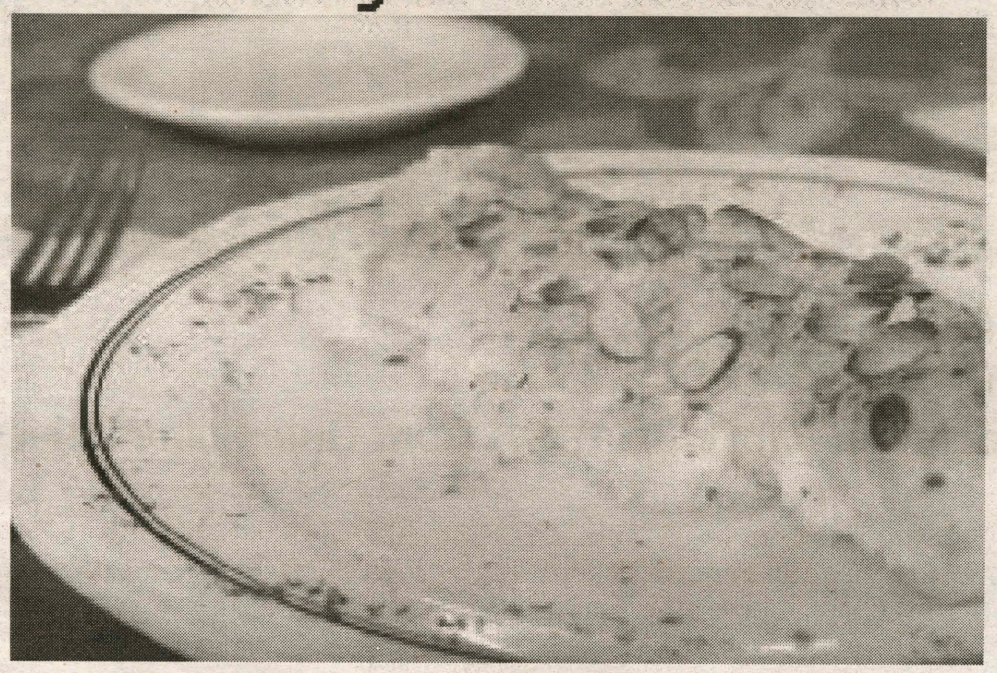

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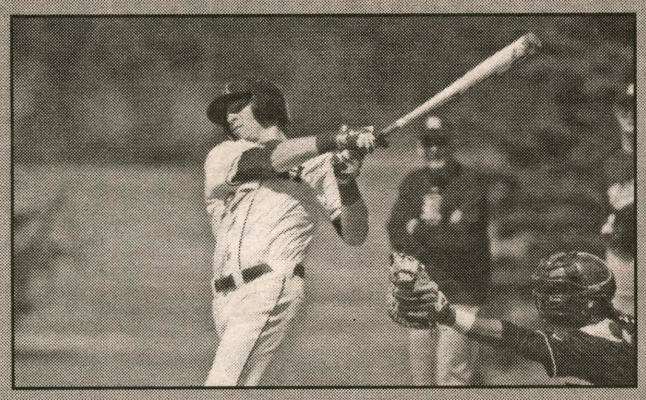

Andrew Haser '17, Baseball

Since being named the NESCAC Player of the Week on April 5, Hamilton's starting first baseman has not cooled down. With the Continentals on the verge of blowing a 7-2 lead against SUNY Brockport on April 10, Haser provided what would turn out to be the winning RBI in Hamilton's 9-8 road win. For the season, Haser leads the Continentals in home runs (five), RBIs (24) and slugging percentage (.717).

Clay McCollum '19, Men's Lacrosse

Though the Continentals are currently on a seven-game losing streak, McCollum emerged as the team's top scorer over a recent three-game home stretch. Facing three nationally ranked opponents in Bates, Middlebury and Tufts, McCollum tied J.D. Brachman '19 for the most goals on the homestand with five. For the season, the first-year attacker ranks third on the team in goals with 18, trailing only Brachman and Sam Sweet '16.

Charlotte Chandler '17, Women's Golf

With the women's team beginning its spring campaign at the Vassar Invitational, Chandler led Hamilton's four golfers with a two-day stroke total of 182. On the first day of the tournament, Chandler posted a career-best round of 86. Her total was good for 36th place out of the 62 golfers who competed at Casperkill Golf Club in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. over the weekend.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY

McCarthy third in NESCAC in assists

from ***Lacrosse*** *page 16*

and Hannah Burrall '19 made six important saves to seal the victory. The win marked the second one-goal victory for the Continentals this season, the other coming against Florida Southern over spring break in Bradenton, Florida.

McCarthy has been the central force on the offensive half for the Continentals this season. She leads the team with 31 points, having tallied a team high 21 assists while adding 10 goals in her final season at Hamilton. McCarthy's role has transitioned greatly from a talented scoring threat last season, when she scored 26 goals, to the main facilitator for the Continentals' offense while recording the third most assists in the NESCAC.

On the defensive end of the field, Burrall has excelled between the pipes in her first season as a starting goalkeeper. Burrall has a 6-2 record for a 75 percent winning percentage in net for the 11th ranked Continentals this season.

Hamilton is currently stand at sixth place in the NESCAC standings, just one game behind a tie for third place with Amherst, Bates and Colby. Only four games remain on the Continentals' schedule, including a game against second ranked Middlebury, as well as home NESCAC contests against Connecticut College and Trinity, a team that has only lost one NESCAC game this season. Hamilton also will play a non-conference game against Ithaca at home on April 19.

PHOTO BY ZACH BATSON '16

Fletcher '17 leads the Continentals with 24 goals this season.

Softball drops 2 of 3 to Amherst

from ***Softball****, page 16*

carried the day in Hamilton's 10-5 win, the first time the Continentals have posted a double-digit run total after doing so three times in Florida. Delaney Nicol '19 paced the win, going 2-for-2 from the plate with her second home run of the season and four RBIs. The game was Nicol's best since going 3-for-3 with a homer and five RBIs against Oberlin on March 22.

Additionally, Hamilton received one of its best relief performances of the season. Zoe Singer '18 pitched the final four innings of the game, holding Amherst to two earned runs and pushing her record to 5-4. The elder statesman on a staff populated with first-years, Singer has emerged as the rotation's stabilizing force, leading the team in wins (five), innings pitched (44.1), ERA (4.26) and strikeouts (17). Furthermore, Singer has exhibited the best control on the team as the only pitcher with a positive strikeout-to-walk (K/BB) ratio, meaning that she has struck out more batters than she has walked.

Still, pitching has been a sore spot for the Continentals this season. This could be problematic against a Williams team that leads the NESCAC in runs (143), though they have played more games than a few teams behind them. Nevertheless, the Ephs boast one of the two or three best offenses in the conference, ranking second in team batting average (.328) and slugging percentage (.462), a measure of power.

In their only true home series of the conference schedule, Hamilton likely needs to take two out of three from the undefeated visitors to ensure that their final conference series at Middlebury in two weekends remains relevant. The Continentals cannot be eliminated from playoff contention since Amherst is off this weekend, but their "magic number" for the rest of the conference slate is currently five. In other words, any combination of Hamilton losses and Amherst wins adding up to five will eliminate Hamilton from the postseason.

Reaching the NESCAC playoffs for the first time with such a green roster might represent a nice bonus more than anything else. Still, given the recent strides the softball program has taken after several hard years, the team surely harbors the goal of remaining alive in the playoff picture through the end of the regular season.

H SPECTATOR SPORTS
April 14, 2016

Women's lacrosse dominates Williams by double-digit margin at home

	1	2	T
Williams	2	2	4
#11 Hamilton	**8**	**6**	**14**
> Gabriel (HAM): 2 goals, 1 ast., 3 GBs, 4 SOG			

by Patrick Malin '18
Sports Editor

The Hamilton women's lacrosse team is off to an impressive 2016 campaign, sporting an overall record of 8-3 with a 4-3 NESCAC record in the most competitive conference in Division III lacrosse. With a highly anticipated clash against the undefeated Middlebury team, ranked second nationally, on the horizon, the Continentals are preparing for a late-season push to gain home-field advantage in the NESCAC playoffs.

The Continentals possess a strong resume in 2016, with two wins against nationally ranked opponents and several dominant performances against conference opponents. The successful beginning to the season has caught the attention of the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Association, earning Hamilton an 11th place ranking on the National Division III Coaches Poll.

Most recently, the Continentals tallied a double-digit margin of victory over Williams at home on April 12, beating the Ephs by a final score of 14-4. Hamilton had a perfect start to the game, surging to a 6-0 lead in the opening minutes of the game. Williams mounted a rally heading into the second half, but the Continentals stormed back with another 6-0 run to pull away and secure the crucial NESCAC victory. Casey File '17 and Jackie Cuddy '18 led the Continentals with three goals each, and Caroline McCarthy '16 matched her career high with four assists in the game. Margaret Gabriel '16 had an all-around stat-line, scoring two goals, assisting on another, and winning three ground balls.

Last weekend, the Continentals prevailed in a tight NESCAC contest against the 16th ranked Tufts Jumbos in Medford, M.A. In a game dictated by lead changes, the Continentals rallied back from an 8-6 halftime deficit with a 4-0 run, highlighted by two goals from File and a free-position shot conversion by Morgan Fletcher '17, last year's all-conference, all-region, and all-American team member. However, Tufts countered with a scoring run of its own, tying the game 11-11 with only eight minutes remaining in regulation.

Midfielder Darby Philbrick '18 proved to be the difference maker in crunch time. Within two minutes, Philbrick scored two unassisted goals leaving Tufts with only two minutes to overcome the two-goal deficit. Although the Jumbos were able to reduce the Continentals' lead to just one goal with one minute left, they were unable to level the score and send the game into overtime. When time expired, the scoreboard read 13-12 in favor of the Continentals in a clash of two nationally ranked titans. McCarthy led the Continentals in assists, with three,

*see **Lacrosse**, page 15*

PHOTO BY ZACH BATSON '16

Gabriel '16 has a point in all NESCAC games this year.

Softball faces pivotal series against Williams in home opener

	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	T
Hamilton	2	2	**10**	14
>Amherst	**10**	**11**	5	**26**

by Sterling Xie '16
Sports Editor

For the next two weeks, the schedule will be a sprint for the Hamilton softball squad. With the unseasonal weather wreaking havoc and forcing multiple cancellations, the Continentals have seen their schedule significantly condensed since returning from spring break. After playing just once in the first week of April, the team played five road games over the weekend, with two "home" game actually occurring at Amherst, M.A.

Amid those difficult scheduling circumstances, the Continentals struggled, going 1-4 and getting outscored 42-14 across the games. Hamilton did win the second game of a doubleheader on April 9, 10-5 over Amherst, giving the Continentals their second conference win of the season. However, after beating Wesleyan by a 6-5 tally in the NESCAC opener, the Continentals fared far worse in the rematches, getting waxed 8-0 in both games of the April 10 doubleheader.

Hamilton took a mid-week break from its conference schedule, playing a doubleheader at Union College on April 13. The Continentals dropped the first game, 3-2, and raced out to a 5-2 lead in the second game. However, after Ursula Castiblanco '19 walked the bases loaded in the bottom of the sixth inning, Union scored six times and took the second game 8-6, sweeping the doubleheader.

Halfway through its NESCAC schedule, Hamilton is 2-4, with an upcoming home series against Williams and a road series against Middlebury remaining. Reaching the postseason in softball is more difficult than the other NESCAC sports, where a large majority of the teams typically make the playoffs. With only four berths available, which go to the top two teams in each five-team division, the Continentals must catch either Williams or Amherst, the current leaders in the West division. Hamilton is currently 2.5 games out of a playoff spot, with second-place Amherst sitting at 4-1 and chasing 3-0 Williams.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY

Nicol '19 is batting .455 in conference play this year.

For the Continentals to prevent the two Massachusetts rivals from running away with the division, Hamilton's bats must awake from their slumber. Perhaps because of the long layoff, the potent offense which had carried the team in Florida was nowhere to be found, scoring more than two runs just once over the weekend. The Continentals' wins are typically slugfests—Hamilton has scored six or more runs in seven of its nine victories this season, while it has never reached that threshold in any of its 12 losses.

These spotty trends may be the byproduct of the softball squad being one of the youngest in program history, with all-time hits leader Olivia Gozdz '16 representing the only senior on the roster. In the Amherst win, underclassmen

*see **Softball** page 15*